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**Testimony of the
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
to the Labor Committee**

January 30, 2007

**RE: SB 153, An Act Concerning Scarring Awards Under the Workers'
Compensation Act**

Senator Prague, Representative Ryan, members of the Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today **in Opposition** to SB 153, An Act Concerning Scarring Awards Under the Workers' Compensation Act. My name is Louise DiCocco-Beauton, and I am Director of Governmental Affairs for the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce. The Greater New Haven Chamber is a regional business organization with more than 1900 members from 15 cities and towns in the region.

The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce is opposed to this measure. SB 153 would amend section 31-308 of the Connecticut General Statutes and eliminate the two-year statute of limitations on the filing of claims for scarring benefits.

The landmark workers' compensation reforms of the 1990's restored balance to the system and have been instrumental in attracting and retaining businesses and jobs to Connecticut. In a climate where many businesses can choose where they locate, those reforms must be allowed to continue in order to maintain our competitiveness.

Connecticut's current benefit structure is fair and does not need to be changed. Connecticut's standard for scarring awards is the equivalent to or more generous than most other states. This measure would put Connecticut significantly out of line with other states. The Chamber urges you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

*For more information, please contact Louise DiCocco-Beauton Esq.,
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Commerce, at (203) 782-4330.*